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News Summary: Milwaukee area hams gear up to set long distance contact records and practice emergency communications skills.

Milwaukee June 25, 1994-

Hundreds of Milwaukee area Amateur Radio operators will work "round the clock this weekend to set up field radio communication stations, get on the air, and contact thousands of other operators in the U. S. and Canada, a part of participation in the American Radio Relay League's Field Day.

According to James Tromblay, Chairman of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club Field Day committee, Field Day is the annual "shakedown run" for the ARRL's national field organization.

"Field Day is a way for hams to get outdoors and have fun under some difficult conditions," Jim says. "But it's also a chance to fine tune emergency communication skills. We use generators and battery power, and we set up antenna's in the field. The idea is to put together a self-sufficient, working station quickly and begin making contacts."

The ARRL Field Organization has been effective in establishing emergency communication nets during floods, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, and other major disasters. Members of formal emergency organizations such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), and the Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Services (RACES) regularly participate. The League estimates that more than 35,000 hams participate in Field Day every year.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club Field Day operators will be at the Pioneer Village, Old Cedarburg RR Depot field next door to the Hawthorne Hills Golf Course on County Rt "J" approx. 4 miles north of Hwy. 33. Set up begins at 9:00 on June 25. The public is invited.

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